



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO KC MEN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL
FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men have been convicted in separate, unrelated bench trials of violating federal firearms law in the continuing Project Ceasefire anti-crime initiative.

Charles A. Woods, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., was found guilty by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner in a bench trial October 28, 2002, of being a felon in possession of a firearm, of being a felon in possession of ammunition, and of being in possession of a firearm from which the importer's and manufacturer's serial number had been removed, obliterated and altered.

Patrick J. Williams, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., was found guilty by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith in a bench trial October 28, 2002, of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Woods was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on February 12, 2002, Graves said. He was found guilty of possessing a Bersa .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol and 11 rounds of ammunition on January 17, 2002. Possession of any firearm or ammunition at that time was illegal, Graves explained, due to **Woods'** 1979 criminal felony conviction for attempted burglary, another 1979 criminal felony conviction for attempted burglary, his 1991 criminal felony convictions for two counts of attempted robbery, and his 1995 criminal felony conviction for burglary in the second degree in Jackson County, Mo. **Woods** was also found guilty of being in possession of a firearm from which the importer's and manufacturer's serial number had been removed, obliterated and altered.

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Woods was arrested on January 17, 2002, when a Kansas City, Mo., police officer stopped his vehicle. **Woods** left the vehicle and began to walk away, Graves said, before being detained by officers who found the ammunition in his pants pocket and the loaded gun in his vehicle.

As a result of his conviction, **Woods** may be subject to being sentenced as an armed career offender, ranging from 19 years and seven months in prison without parole up to 24 years and five months in prison without parole, according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Williams was charged in a one-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on December 5, 2001, Graves said. **Williams** was found guilty of being in possession of a Star 9mm pistol on November 18, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time was illegal, Graves explained, due to **Williams'** 1993 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property in Jackson County, Mo.

Williams was arrested on November 18, 2001, after a short foot chase and struggle with a Kansas City, Mo., police officer, Graves said. After handcuffing him, the officer frisked **Williams** and found a loaded Star 9mm pistol in his waistband. The officer had initially attempted to make contact with **Williams**, Graves said, after being flagged down by an individual who said **Williams** had walked into his house on the Paseo and refused to leave, until he pushed him out the front door and onto the sidewalk.

A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Since the initiative began, Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 335 defendants, and convictions against 291 of those defendants, including 269 who pleaded guilty and 22 who were convicted at trial. A total of 252 of the 289 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 37 currently await sentencing hearings.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow